

SPECIAL VILLAGE OF EAGLE BOARD MEETING HELD JOINTLY
WITH THE TOWN OF EAGLE BOARD MINUTES

March 2, 2016

Approved

Call to Order/Open Meeting Law Requirements:

Village President R. Spurrell called the Village of Eagle Special Board Meeting to order at 6:30pm, March 2, 2016.

Town Supervisor J. Davis called the Town of Eagle Special Board meeting to order in the absence of Town Chairman B. Kwiatkowski at 6:30pm, March 2, 2016.

Roll Call:

Village Board: G. Hein, J. Frisch, P. Jones and R. Spurrell all present, J. Hoefakker, G. Scheff, and L. Neuburg were excused.

Town Board: D. Malek, D. West, J. Davis, A. Rasmussen, all present. B. Kwiatkowski was absent for roll call but entered the meeting shortly after the presentation from the Library Board began.

Pledge of Allegiance:

R. Spurrell and J. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Comments/Concerns to be heard:

No Public Comments

Discussion/Action on future needs, space, options, and timeline of Alice Baker Memorial Library:

Presentation was given by B. Pinkenstein of the library board. She went over a brief history of the library, stating that it was organized in 1974 and had been part of the Eagle Municipal Building since 1994, indicating that the growing Alice Baker Memorial Library had been utilizing and outgrowing the same space for over 20 years. She continued by providing the many benefits and services offered by the library, stating that libraries were not just for books or were not just for children, but also a place for connecting, networking, activity space, and educational programs for all ages. She also addressed what she called a common myth that 'libraries will get smaller and won't be needed with the internet' by comparing the usage and needs of the Alice Baker Memorial Library to others around the state of similar size. She indicated that her comparisons showed that the Alice Baker Memorial Library was well below all others compared in regards to space. She explained that a needs assessment had indicated a need of a 12,000 sq ft expansion, but that the final expansion number was decreased by the library board. She then began explaining the library board's alternate expansion plan of adding an additional 9,500 sq feet of new space, and a remodel of the existing 3,886 sq feet of existing space, for a total new space of 13,400 sq feet. She indicated that the expansion would include a new children's area, more space for furniture, computers and work stations, increase staff work space, storage and improved flow. The quoted expansion cost for 2017 was estimated at \$3,386,093, with a construction timeline of 12 months. B. Pinkenstein proposed a \$2,000,000 private fundraising effort by the library, leaving approximately \$1,500,000 split between the Town and Village. She

estimated additional annual operating costs for the new facility at a total of \$25,600. An amortization table was provided showing a 20 year loan repayment at a rate of 3.5%. Additional funds needed annually for loan payback were said to be estimated at \$64,994 per municipality. Members from both Village and Town boards voiced concerns over raising taxes for all residents for the few who use the library, rallying resident support, collecting the total dollar amount in private donations, what would happen if the private donation goal was not met, whether the expansion was needed in a community as small as Eagle, and unforeseen construction costs and how to handle if they arise. Several library board members were present for the meeting and provided feedback for the Village and Town Boards. They provided feedback regarding concerns, stating that a plan was developing to get the word out to residents about the benefits of the library and that they felt confident that the private donation goal could be raised and if not, the expansion could be done in phases rather than all at once. Library board members provided examples of library expansions done in Milton, Fort Atkinson, and Black River Falls, and the success they had bringing communities together, raising funds, rallying resident support, and the increase in resident usage after expansion. Village and Town Board members still voiced concern over finding resident support in both the Town and the Village to pass a referendum to raise the levy limit for the library expansion, but decided to go over numbers and meet again at a later date once future plans for other projects were reviewed.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by P. Jones. Seconded by G. Hein. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).
R. Spurrell adjourned at 8:02pm.

Motion to adjourn made by D. Malek. Seconded by A. Rasmussen. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

B. Kwiatkowski adjourned at 8:02pm.